

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, March 18. 1768.

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### More FRENCH Spectacles yet.

**I** Am sorry this Spectacle-Tale has held me so long, for I know you do not love a long Story, be it never so much to the Purpose; and perhaps in some Cases this in-particular may pinch a little too close, but I must go on yet a little farther with my *History of French Spectacles*.

This Nation being perfectly enlightened at the Revolution, as in the Conclusion of my last I made appear, it might be very natural to enquire, how came we to stand in need of Spectacles again? — It would require too long a History, and tend only, *Renouveau D'illusion*, to tell, how the general Infatuation return'd upon this People? And yet I cannot but hint at the Heads.

*How some had no sooner made the right Use of their Spectacles, to restore Liberty and Property; but upon not having their Ambition or Covetousness answer'd, they fell into Sadness and Melancholy, and the Vapours of Bury fuming up into their Heads, Dimness of Sight follow'd of Course.*

*How others, entangled in Controversies and Niceties about Loyalty, Oaths and Government, bewildred themselves in the Bogs and Brakes of confus'd Notions, till being up'd long to walk in Darkness, they lost their Sight; and Spectacles, you know, are quite useless in the Dark.*

END

How others, frighted with Political Out-Cries rais'd by the Agents of Darkness, about the Danger of the Church, run into Extremes by the meer Hurry of their Imaginations, and losing their Spectacles in the Fright, could never find them again, and have been dim-sighted ever since.

To cure these, we had a very kind Assistance among other Court Helps, from a meer Accident, which help'd us to a very large Quantity of Spectacles, and these were imported for us by a certain honest Sort of Gentlemen call'd TACKERS. These supply'd us with one Million, one Hundred, thirty four Thousand Pair of very good Spectacles, which being dispers'd all over the Nation, were of great Use to us; for they enlightned us in a great Measure, and to many good Effects; such as,

Choosing an honest Parliament, rejecting a High Wou'd-Be Speaker, suppressing Coven-try Tumults, discouraging the Attempts of making Vagabonds of dissenting Ministers, and a thousand such Things, which are too long to repeat; and under the Operation of this last Parcel of Spectacles, Thanks be to GOD, we retain a Competence of Illumination in both Nations; and if the French would but come and bring us over a Recruit of Spectacles, for we cannot yet learn to make them here, perhaps we might arrive to another general Cure of our Blindness, equal to that at the Revolution: Therefore, good People, if you have any Sense of your Blindness, and resolve, as I doubt too many of you do, to be cured no other way, *O let the French come by all means*, never hinder them, for they will certainly cure you of all the Remains of Darkness, that dwell upon your Politick Eye-sight; they'll bring you Spectacles in Abundance; and now we are much upon Improvement of Manufactures, and supplying the Defects of Trade, the shortest Way, viz. by quite destroying it; perhaps we may learn to make French Spectacles in the North of Britain, tho' we could never do it in the South; and if so, we may chance never to be blind again; mean Time the Cure is a Thing so necessary, and which the whole Nation wants so much, let the French or any Body

do it, I am almost of the Spaniards Mind, *Let the Cure be wrought, tho' the Devil be the Doctor.*

I come now to enquire into the Occasion we have for French Spectacles at this Time, and of what Use they would be to us in the present Circumstances of Britain; for it we do not want them, the Argument is of no Force, for who would lay out their Money for a Commodity they have no Occasion for? and I am very plain with you, Gentlemen, I assure you, you will not have them *Gratis*; if you will have them, you must pay for them, we always paid for them, and sometimes very dear too, tho' I cannot say, but in the End they have been worth our Money too. for, [*Experience teaches best when dearest bought*] but I shall talk of the Price by it self.

As to the Usefulness and present Occasion of these Spectacles then, in order to convince you, that you ought to buy the Parcel the French may bring, let them be never so many; pray, let me think of a few Sorts of People, that may be supposed to want them

And First, Gentlemen in the South, you that were formerly for the Revolution, and fac'd about again to your old Principles of Passive-Obedience and original Slavery; a Pair of French Spectacles screw'd on hard upon your Noses, and a true Method of using them taught you by your French Instructors, viz. a long Handle put upon them, and a Jesuit at the End of it to lead you by it into the old true Steps of Maudlin College, and High Commission-Tyranny, making you the Tools to erect Idolatry upon the Ruin of the Protestant Religion; this Pair of Spectacles would open your blind Eyes again, and thro' these Glasses you would decently learn to see, the Onions and Garlick of Egypt be a nauseous Sort of Dyes, compared to the Milk and Honey of Canaan, and the Flesh Pots of the House of Bondage, a surfeiting Food, when set by the Vine and the Fig-tree of Property without Slavery. This would be an admirable Illumination, and I believe, no Man will say you do not want it.

Secondly,



Secondly, You Gentlemen in the North, that are blind to the Difference between a Union with French Popery and Protestant Englishmen, and, if there be any left among you that are so blind, with to see the Exchange; As soon as ever the French land, do but buy a Pair of French Spectacles, you may have them at the cheap Price, perhaps of plundering a little of your Gear, or RAVISHING One or Two of your Daughters, Things of no Value, you know, compar'd to your Deliverance from English Bondage. Well, and what will these French Spectacles do? — Why, being decently led by the Nose back to that pleasant Condition from whence the Revolution rescued you, you may have the Pleasure to see again thro' these Glasses, your Ministers deposed, and the Gaols filled with them, the Soldiers empowered to SHOOT EVERY MAN upon the Highway, that would not renounce the Covenant, and Women ty'd to Stakes in the Sea at Low Water Mark, till the Tide flow'd over them; they won't say, GOD spread to Popery and Tyranny, as in the late Reign was practis'd upon you — And these being but Trifles compar'd to the Hardships England puts upon you by the Union, these Spectacles will give you Light to make a rational Choice.

*O who will you buy any French Spectacles?*

Thirdly, You High-Flyers that groan under the heavy Borthen of Moderation, you Men of Books and Words that covet Peace without Union, that hate the Government because they won't persecute, and the QUEEN because Her Majesty presses you to Peace; O buy some French Spectacles, Sir H. . . Indeed you want them.

You Gentlemen of the High Church of England, that submit to the Meanest of having your Cause pleaded by Papists and Non-Jurors, that own the Labours of the Rehearser of your Shame, as if no Man could defend your Cause, but he that damns your Principle, and disowns your Foundation; that are blinded with the Farce of a spurious Argument, and cannot see the

Illegitimacy of the Author, nor the Extent of his Design; O buy some French Spectacles, they will immediately help your Eye-sight.

You perjur'd Wretches, that swear to the present Government, and yet espouse a Jacobine Interest, that call your selves Protestants, embrace the Church of England Doctrine, and rave some of you in her Pulpits; that have given your Faith to Queen ANN, and yet secretly own, with and ad for the French Pretender, and a Popish Government; that enjoy Liberty, yet seek the subjecting your Country to French Bondage, and surrendering your Posterity to a Slavery, you know not the Meaning of; if you have any Sence left, any Remains of Light in your Understanding, or Desire to encrease it, by all Means buy some French Spectacles; a little Experience of them, and their being well fitted to your Passive Noses, and screw'd right for Leading, will reform your Understandings, and bring you to your selves again. O buy your selves some Spectacles.

You MODERN PROTESTANTS, that are uneasy under the Toleration of Religion to your Neighbours, that being impatient to have the Plunder of your Dissenting Brethren, would rather venture to bring in Popery to plunder us all; that would be content to hazard the whole Church of England to blow up the Presbyterians, according to the wise Method of sinking the Ship to drown the Rattis; that hate a Dissenter worse than a Papist, had rather go to Mass than to a Conventicle, and submit to French Tyranny than to a Whiggish Administration; O Gentlemen, you want French Spectacles, buy them whatever they cost you.

May it please your Lordships; my Lord —, and my Lord —, that make us huge long Speeches, and then print them. And you worthy Ministers of State, that would be, from N<sup>o</sup>. 1. to N<sup>o</sup>. 9. that are for changing the Ministry, not because they are chargeable by you with Mismanagements, but because they are Whigs; that want an Administration of mad Men and High-Flyers, that would ruin the Constitution,